tracted, the Ulcer was ſoon cicatrized by the common Methods of Cure in ſuch Caſes.

N. B. All theſe Perſons are yet living, and will atteſt the Truth of the Caſe.

X. *A Letter from* Tho. Stack, *M. D. to Sir* Hans Sloane, *Bart. Pr.* R. S. *&c. containing an Account of a* Woman ſixty-eight Years of Age, *who gave* Suck *to two of her Grand-children.*

Honoured SIR,

A Gentleman of Credit having lately inform'd me of a Woman near ſeventy Years old, who actually ſuckles one of her Grand-children, and courteouſly offering to accompany me to her, excited my Curioſity to ſee ſo uncommon a Sight; and the more, in order to try if I could not diſcover ſome Fallacy in the Affair. Wherefore I went Yeſterday, in Company with the aforeſaid Gentleman, to a Houſe in *Tottenham-Court-Road,* where the Woman we inquired for appear'd in an Inſtant. Her Breaſts were full, fair, and void of Wrinkles; though her Face is very much wither'd, her Cheeks and Mouth vaſtly ſunk in, her Eyes red, and running with a clammy Humour; and though ſhe has, in ſhort, all the other external Marks that one may reaſonably expect to find in a Woman, who has ſpent the laſt Half of her paſt Life in Labour, Troubles, and other Concomitants of Poverty, and through them has reach'd near to her

70th

70th Year. Upon preſſing her right Breaſt, ſhe fairly ſqueez'd out Milk, which gather'd in ſmall Drops at three of the Lacteal Ducts terminating in the Nipple. This Experiment I made her repeat a ſecond time, having myſelf carefully dry'd the End of the Nipple with my Handkerchief, as I had done before her firſt Trial. Convinced of the Truth of the Fact, I ask'd her ſeveral Queſtions, in order to procure Materials for a Hiſtory thereof. The Subſtance of her Anſwers was as follows:

Her Name by Marriage is *Elizabeth Brian*. She is in the ſixty-eighth Year of her Age ſince laſt *October*, and has not borne a Child theſe twenty Years and upwards. About four Years ſince, her Daughter being obliged to leave an Infant ſhe then gave Suck to, in the Care of this her own Mother, and likely to be a conſiderable time abſent; the old Woman, finding the Child froward for want of the Breaſt, apply'd it to her own, barely in order to quiet the Infant, without the leaſt Thoughts of Milk. And this having reiterated ſeveral times, a Son of hers, by that time grown a Man, perceiv'd that the Child ſeem'd to ſwallow ſomewhat from the Nipple; whereupon he begg'd Leave of his Mother to try if ſhe had not Milk. The Experiment ſucceeded: The Youth drew Milk from that ſame Breaſt from which he had been wean'd above twenty Years, and which had been unaccuſtom'd to any for ſeventeen or eighteen Years before: The good Woman then continued to ſuckle her Grand-child in earneſt: And in ſome time her Daughter, *viz.* the Infant's Mother, ſeeing ſhe was provided with ſuch an extraordinary and tender Nurſe, was embolden'd to bid fair for an Increaſe of Iſſue,

which

which till then ſhe knew not how to nouriſh or provide for. Accordingly, at the End of two Years, ſhe brought forth another Child; whereupon the Grandmother wean'd the firſt, and ſuckled the latter; which ſhe has done theſe laſt two Years, and ſtill continues to do. And this Infant, in my Preſence, took the Nipple with as much Eagerneſs, and ſeeming Delight, as I ever perceived in a Child of two Years old; and at it plainly perform'd the Actions of Suction and Deglutition. The two Children, both Girls, are, as to Conſtitution, ſuch as I could wiſh to the deareſt Friend; plump and firm in Fleſh; in Complexion cleanly, fair and healthy, and in Temper brisk and ſprightly; conſidering the Lowneſs of their Condition and Education, and the mean Diet of the Nurſe.

When this good Woman came to Town, which was near two Years ſince, her Milk abounded to that Degree in both Breaſts, that, to convince the Unbelieving, ſhe would frequently ſpout it above a Yard from her: A Particular which, among others, the good Man and Woman of the Houſe, and others of the Neighbourhood, likewiſe aſſured me of. Now her left Breaſt is run dry, and ſhe has no great Quantity in the Right: But what there is, is as good Milk as one may deſire in a Nurſe.

The poor Woman ſeems perfectly honeſt and artleſs, and even inclines ſtrongly to Dotage. She very religiouſly throws the Whole upon a Miracle.

I beg Leave to ſubſcribe with Gratitude and Reſpect, both in a ſupreme Degree, *Honoured SIR,*

London, Jan. 8. 1733. *St. Jul.*

Your moſt obliged and obedient Servant,

Thomas Stack.